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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/638,231	08/07/2003	John E. Jones	47171-379USPT	4127

41230 7590 04/04/2007

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EXAMINER

BHATNAGAR, ANAND P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/04/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/638,231

Applicant(s)

JONES ET AL.

Examiner

Anand Bhatnagar

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-56 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08/07/03 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>04/18/05, 09/23/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paraskevacos (U.S. patent 7,006,664 B2, will be further referred to as Par.).

Regarding claims 1, 22: Par. discloses a currency bill scanning device (fig. 4 element 33 and col. 2 lines 9-25), comprising:

a receptacle for holding currency bills (fig. 2 elements 25-29, wherein some if not all of these machines have at least one receptacle to put money into);

means for obtaining an identifier for a transaction involving one or more of the currency bills (col. 2 lines 30-35, wherein a tag is obtained to identify the transaction and track the money. The tag is read as the identifier.);

an image scanner operable to obtain an image of at least one side of a received currency bill and to extract a serial number of the received currency bill from the image (col. 2 lines 11-25); and

a processing functionality for creating a data file which links the extracted serial numbers for the currency bills involved in the transaction to the identifier for the transaction to allow for the involved currency bills to be subsequently traced

by serial number to that transaction (col. 2 lines 9-60, wherein the currency is processed, i.e. processing functionality, to trace the currency).

Regarding claims 2, 23: The device wherein the image scanner obtains at least a partial image of each currency bill (col. 2 lines 9-25).

Regarding claims 3, 24: The device wherein the partial image is obtained of each side of each currency bill (col. 2 lines 9-25).

Regarding claims 4, 25: The device wherein the image scanner obtains a full image of each currency bill (col. 2 lines 9-25).

Regarding claims 5, 26: The device wherein the full image is obtained of each side of each currency bill (col. 2 lines 9-25).

Regarding claim 6: The device wherein the means for obtaining the identifier comprises a data entry device (col. 2 lines 27-54, it is obvious that in order to trace a transaction and/or track the currency the data must be kept in memory for this process, i.e. data entered).

Regarding claim 7: The device wherein the data entry device is a keypad (fig. 2 element 19).

Regarding claim 8: The device wherein the data entry device is a card reader (col. 3 lines 1-4, wherein an ATM, automated banking machine, is a machine in the method. It is obvious that ATM accepts a customers card and enters the data of the customer into memory for record keeping).

Regarding claim 9: The device wherein the data entry device is a biometric scanner (fig. 8 element 96).

Regarding claims 10, 27: The device wherein the data file is an image file which contains an image of the currency bill tagged with the extracted serial number of that currency bill and the identifier of the transaction involving that currency bill (col. 2 lines 9-37).

Regarding claims 11, 28: The device further including a currency bill denomination functionality (col. 2 lines 27-28).

Regarding claims 12, 29: The device wherein the denomination functionality is implemented by extracting a bill denomination value from the image (col. 2 lines 27-28).

Regarding claims 13, 30: The device further including a transport mechanism adapted to transport the currency bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle past the image scanner, to at least one output receptacle (figs. 5 and 6, the transport carrier).

Regarding claims 14, 31: The device wherein the currency bills are transported by the transport mechanism with a narrow dimension parallel to a direction of transport (figs 5 and 6, wherein the currency is transported.).

Regarding claims 15, 32: Par. does not teach the feature of "wherein the at least one output receptacle is a plurality of output receptacles." It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the system to have one or more input and/or output receptacles depending on customer requirements. One in the art would have been motivated to incorporate multiple receptacles in order to

perform multiple transactions of a plurality of customers and to keep the documents of each customer separate.

Regarding claim 16: The device further including a controller adapted to control the operation of the device (fig. 2 element 3, wherein the CPU controls the process).

Regarding claims 17, 33: The device of further including a memory for storing the serial number and transaction identifier data (col. 2 lines 27-37).

Regarding claims 18, 34: The device further comprising an interface through which the data file is communicated from the device to a computer (fig. 2 wherein the information/data is communicated with a computer)

Regarding claim 19: The device wherein the image scanner extracts a denomination of the currency bill for storage in the data file col. 2 lines 27-37).

Regarding claims 20, 35: The device wherein the image scanner extracts a Federal Reserve Bank number of the currency bill for storage in the data file (col. 2 lines 27-54).

Regarding claims 21, 36: The device wherein the image scanner extracts a signatory on the currency bill for storage in the data file (col. 2 lines 27-54).

Regarding claims 37-56: Theses claims are rejected for reasons in claims 1-36, respectively, since these claims are broader versions of these claims.

Conclusion

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Haycock (U.S. patent 6,065,672) for a currency distribution center.

Kayani et al. (U.S. patent 5,917,930) for a currency stacking processing system.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anand Bhatnagar whose telephone number is 571-272-7416. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on 571-272-7429. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2624

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



VIKKRAM BALI
PRIMARY EXAMINER



AB
April 1, 2007